THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI JAYSINGRAO GAIKWAD PATIL): (a) to (c) The Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan determines teaching and non-teaching staff in each Kendriya Vidyalaya every year. The staff become surplus due to decrease in classes/sections, merger of shifts, upgradation of Kendriya Vidyalayas etc. Details of surplus teachers as on 31.8.99 are given in the Annexure. [*See* Appendix 188 Annexure No. 15]

(d) and (e) Yes, Sir. This has been done due to budgetary constraints.

Objectives of Kendriya Vidyalayas

†490. SHRI ONKAR SINGH LAKHAWAT: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) what was the objective for opening Kendriya Vidyalayas by the Government of India and whether they are fulfilling their objectives; and

(b) whether Government are going to gradually close Kendriya Vidyalayas, stating the number of Vidyalayas closed so far in the country and in Rajathan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI JAYSINGRAO GAIKWAD PATIL): (a) The Kendriya Vidyalayas are opened Primarily with the objective of catering to the educational needs of the children of transferable Central Govt. employees including Defence and paramilitary personnel by providing a common pattern of education.

Kendriya Vidyalayas are also opened in Project Sectors to cater to the educational needs of the employees of Public Sector Undertakings, autonomous bodies and Institutes of Higher Learning on the condition that they would meet all the recurring/non-recurring expenses of the school.

(b) There is no plan to gradually close down the Kendriya Vidyalayas. However, proposals to close down/relocate the KVs or merge them with existing KVs are considered on merits of each case.

Seven KVs located in the Project Sectors have been closed down during 1999-2000. Two ware located in Rajasthan. Five KVs located in Civil/Defence Sectors were merged/relocated, out of which one is in Rajasthan.

Increase in Insecurity of Train Commuters

491. SHRI PREM CHAND GUPTA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the risk of insecurity for commuters in trains has been increasing; and

(b) if so,what specific steps Government propose to take in this regard?

†Original notice of the Question was received in Hindi.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) and (b) No, Sir. The maintenance of law and order and control of crime on Railway premises including Railway stations and running trains is the responsibility of the State Government concerned. However, RPF co-ordinates with the GRP for ensuring better security to the Railway passengers and their belongings. The following steps have been taken by RPF for improving the passenger safety:

(1) Co-ordination meetings are being held between Railway managers, RPF officers and State Police Officers at the Zonal and Divisional level. Meeting is also being held at the level of Railway Board.

(2) RPF Officers are holding regular co-ordination meetings with their counter-parts on the GRP and Civil Police.

(3) Sharing of Special Intelligence and Crime Intelligence between RPF and GRP is being done at all levels.

(4) Joint Strategies for dealing with anti-social elements operating on Railways have been chalked out by the GRP and RPF.

(5) RPF Sniffer dogs, wherever available, are being deployed at Railway platforms, yards etc. to sniff out explosive substances. RPF men are being trained in the identification and detection of explosive devices.

Rail Accidents

492. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the number of Rail accidents in the country is increasing, day by day;

(b) if so, whether Government have gone deep into the cause responsible for these accidents, particularly during the last two years;

(c) if so, what steps Government have taken, till date, to minimise these accidents;

(d) whether it is a fact that the number of passengers travelling by trains is decreasing; and

(e) if so, what new plans Government propose to introduce to attract more people to travel by trains?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) No, Sir. The number of consequential train accidents in 1960-61 was 2131. It reached a level of 381 in 1996-97 and during 1998-99 it was 397.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) A statement is enclosed (*See* below).